AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 7. NO. 14 WASHINGTON D. C. SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1917 WHOLE NO. 326.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

MAKE-UP OF WAR BOARDS THAT ASSIST PRESIDENT

Washington, June 30.—In reply to a query regarding the personnel and duties of the council of National Defense and the advisory commission of the council of national defense, A. P. of L. Secretary Morrison writes a trade unionist this information of general interest:

"Legislation creating the council of national defense is contained in the military appropriation bill for the year ending June 30, 1917. It provides that the council shall consist of the secretary of war, secretary of navy, secretary of the interior, secretary of agriculture, secretary of commerce and secretary of labor. It is the duty of this council to supervise and direct investigations and make recommendations to the president.

"The law also provides that the president shall appoint, on recommendation of the council, seven persons as an advisory commission, each of whom shall have special knowledge of some industry, public utility or his otherwise specially qualified, and shall serve without compensation.

"The members of this commission, and their duties, are:

"Daniel Willard, of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad—Transportation and communication.

"Howard E. Coffin, of the Hudson Motor company, Detroit—Munitions and manufacturing, including standardization and industrial relations.

"Julius Rosenwald, of Sears, Roebuck & company, Chicago—Supplies, including clothing, etc.

"Bernard M. Baruch, financier, of New York—Raw materials, minerals and metals.

"Dr. Hollis Godfrey, of the Drexel Institute, Philadelphia — Engineering and education.

"Samuel Gompers, president A. F. of L.—Labor, including conservation of health and welfare of workers.

"Dr. Franklin Martin, of Chicago—Medicine and surgery, including general sanitation.

"Members of the advisory commission have appointed various subcommittees, to consider the details of the work, the committee on labor, of which Mr. Gompers is chairman, is assisted by the following subcommittees: Wages and hours, mediation and conciliation, women in industry, welfare work, information and statistics, press, publicity, cost of living and general economy."

BOILER MAKERS GAIN.

Wilmington, Del., June 30.—Organized boiler makers at the Pusey & Jones corporation plant were forced to suspend work for three days to reinstate a fellow unionist. This concern is continually victimizing its union employes, and strikes are continually happening, as a result.

St. Paul, Minn., June 30.—Boiler makers announce that all the large Northern railroad shops here are 35 per cent organized.

Kansas City, Mo., June 30.—President Franklin of the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers has received information from far-off Honolulu that Boiler Makers' union No. 112, affiliated with the brotherhood, has secured a new wage rate of $4 for eight hours and $6.20 for ten hours' work for overtouts. It is stated that business is very good on the island.

New Orleans, June 30.—Organized boiler makers in this city and all boilermakers have won their strike against the New Orleans Metal Trades association. They have secured a 50 cents a day for inside work and 80 cents a day for outside work. The agreement calls for better working conditions.

WOMEN TO MAN RAILROADS?

Parsons, Kan., June 26.—If the war continues three years more many railroads in this country will be operated largely by women, says Edward F. Anderson, general manager of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad. The Missouri, Kansas railroad's training school for women in Dallas, the official said he believes women could sell tickets, do office work in railroad stations, act as clerks in freight offices and could collect fares on trains.

Although Mr. Anderson did not say so, it is evident that Mr. M., K. & T. has failed to secure strikebreakers to replace members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, who have been locked out because they demanded living conditions.

GROCERS OBJECT.

Chicago, June 30.—Unfair competition is driving small retailers from business in increasing numbers, according to a report to the convention of the National Wholesale Grocers' association.

"It is charged that manufacturers sell large consignments direct to chain stores, mail order houses and department stores at prices which are normally charged to the wholesaler and at which the manufacturer cannot profitably sell to the individual small retailer. The wholesalers insist that this is unfair competition and they want the federal trade commission to take action.

The wholesalers defend the wildest kind of competition, however, when their employes suggest contrary action.

MADE A NOISE; FINED.

Rossville, Ga., June 30.—The mayor of this city has complained that a new brand of "justice" by fining five striking textile workers, who were found guilty of forming associations in a crowd that made disturbing noise in the public streets, with the result of attracting the attention of those employed in the mills."

WANT TO EMPLOY CHILDREN.

Annapolis, Md., June 30.—Canners in this state are lining up with the legislature to reduce the age limit in the child labor law from 14 to 12 years. They say it is impossible to secure women labor. Trade unionists suggest that they experiment with the living wage.

MACHINISTS RAISE WAGES.

Fort Wayne, Ind., June 30.—Machinists employed by the Nickel Plate railroad in this city and Stony Island (Chicago) have raised wages 4 and 4 1-2 cents an hour respectively.

METAL WORKERS GAIN.

Portland, Ore., June 30.—Organized sheet metal workers have won their strike for higher wages and better working conditions. A union shop agreement has been secured.

SHIP CAULKERS UNITE.

Baltimore, June 30.—The Brotherhood of Carpenters has organized a local of ship caulkers in this city. Over 100 workers have enrolled, it is stated.

LABOR CONSCRIPTION THEORY REPUDIATED

Washington, June 30.—A warning against possible labor conscription was sounded and repudiation to the theory that judges have the right to issue injunctions in personal relations was recorded by the Pathfinders' league at its convention in this city.

The question of labor conscription the unionists declare that now is the time to effectively combat such a possibility and labor organizers, farmers and friends of freedom everywhere are urged to join hands in resisting this innovation that would place workers on a military basis.

Regarding the injunction, the convention declared: "Whereas, Equity power to forbid, to issue injunctions for the protection of property rights where there is no remedy at law, came to us from England and was adopted into our system as it existed in England prior to the American Revolution, therefore be it

"Resolved, That we will not admit that the court, sitting in equity, has any jurisdiction in personal relations —the relation between employers and employes, that we will plead the decree of the Taft-Sutherland in such instances in which such jurisdiction has been taken upon itself to usurp, and that we will in all such cases disobey the equity court, taking whatever consequence may be our lot, and further be it

"Resolved, That we do these things in the name of the people of the citizens of the United States, having received from our fathers its freedom which we deem it our sacred duty to transmit at least unimpaired to our sons."

WAR ENDS ONE SOPHISTRY.

Fargo, N. D., June 30.—The Daily Courier-News, controlled by the Non-Partisan league, says "stern necessity" has ended the bottom dogma of the sophistry that speculated dealings on food exchanges are necessary to the protection of producers.

"Even the food employers, themselves now agree," says the paper, "that the thing to do in time of war is to cut out all but actual buying and selling of grain. The real grain means nothing else but that all along they have known but have not admitted that speculation has added to and widen the margin between the producer's price and the consumer's price, to the benefit of other words, robbed the producer and robbed the consumer.

"This is a great advance to have made, to get this important admission from the grain gamblers. The country now can have slight patience with further defenses of grain gambling or further efforts to continue the practice."

UNIONISM'S HANDICAP.

Jerome, Ariz., June 30.—No trade union movement in the west must face the racial handicap that confronts American organized labor, according to a report of the United Verde Copper company has emphasized the fact that employes who have played on the prejudices and nationalities of employees. A list of 968 employees, employed by the Verde company, shows the following nationalities:

Americans, 197; African, 301; Spaniards, 69; Irish, 44; English, 10; Germans, 24; Canadians, 13; Scots, 3; Swiss, 3; Swedes and Danes, 13; Slavonians, 13; Austrians, 197; Italians, 127. Also 1 each of the following: Portuguese, 2; Servians, 27; Bulgarians, 5; Montenegrians, 13.

R. R. ENDANGERS LIFE.

St. Louis, Mo., June 30.—Train service employes of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad are talking of asking for various safety appliances that are sure them protection against incompetent operators on this railroad. The recent threat of a strike of its organized keymen, members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, demanded better working conditions. Conductors, engineers, firemen and brakemen are also struggling with the danger their lives. Company officials insist that no strike exists, but this is denied by officials of train service employes or the scores of towns in several states which have been denied regular freight service.

UNIONS IGNORE HIM.

Denver, June 30.—A. N. Parrish has resigned from the state industrial commission, in protest over the way it is opposed to end strikes by denying workers the right to quit their employment when so inclined.

Colorado trade unionists are ignoring this law and Parrish has quit his job, it is stated, because the other commissioners would not join with him and the law in forcing a batch of organized workers.

The colleagues of Parrish are not sure of their ground and refuse to accept the dare of workers.

AMEND COMPENSATION LAW.

Hartford, Conn., June 30.—The new workmen's compensation act, passed by the last general assembly, is now effective. Hereafter only seven days will have to elapse before compensation in due and the maximum compensation allowed is $1,500 and $20.

The commissioners are given authority and are permitted to even prosecute employers who have failed who violate the law. Although occupational diseases are not included the commission has the power of decision as to cause, and the right of appeal is given the worker.

8 HOURS FOR SHOP MEN.

Chicago, June 30.—The Chicago & Northwestern railroad shop federation has secured the eight-hour day for all journeymen, apprentices and helpers and practically all others in the railroad shops under their agreements, excepting seven-day men in the latter department. The federation of railroad shop crafts with the railroad management.

PLUMBERS LICENSED.

Denver, June 30.—The state law requiring all licenses for plumbers is now in effect, and a board of examiners has been appointed by the state board of health. The fee for employing plumbers will be $10 for the first year and $5 a year thereafter. Master and journeymen plumbers the fee will be $2 for the first year and $1 a year thereafter.

SHIP WORKERS GAIN.

San Francisco, June 30.—About 1200 shipwrights, joiners, caulkers and boat builders are benefited by the new wage scale which was negotiated by the maritime bay district council of carpenters. The scale is as follows: The new work and $5.50 for old work are increased to $6 and $6 respectively for an eight-hour day.

OPPOSITION TO UNION CLOAK FOR PRIVILEGE

Chicago, June 30.—Last year the Chicago board of education was given a cloak for its actions by editors and other citizens because it opposed organization among the teachers.

In the letters of condemnation did not concretely size up the situation, according to this statement by the Illinois Teacher, published in the interest of public school teachers:

"The Chicago aggression of politico-educational acrobats, gymnasts, strong men, necromancers, and wild men, in a gigantic four-ring circus and multitudinous sideshows, continues to exhibit their stupendous spectacle of subordinating modern methods in school management to selfish greed and personal ambitions as Barnum would say. But to speak plain English, the political factions in Chicago make no sincere and artful disguise of their selfish and with their mismanagement of the city school system.

"A year or two ago the schools were divorced from any relation with the politics of either administration for the sake of the children. Now the people who thus saved the schools from the political pawnbrokers and are accusing each other of trying to 'loot' and 'wreck' the school system—but they are not going to be fooled again. Some people are beginning to suspect that common, every-day teachers and laborers may be as sincere and efficient in their support and protection of the school interests as the politicians are, and that cooperation between teachers and other workers may be a real assurance to the real welfare of the children after all.

"Some day the people of Chicago will wake up and establish a new order of things under which the school system will actually be used to educate children instead of being used as the football between the factional leaders and as a feeding trough for big business. Let it be soon!"

SCHOOL LAW ENFORCED.

Madison, Wis., June 30.—A Milwaukee girl stenographer, who refused to attend continuation school, has lost her case in the state supreme court, it is stated.

"The statute is mandatory requiring the continuation school to attend continuation school or remain out of employment. It does not seem to admit of any exception. It is one of the numerous child labor laws which the legislature saw fit to place on the statutes for the purpose of promoting the welfare of minors and preparing them for adult activities. Some such laws may be unwise or of little value. Doubtless a strict enforcement in some instances would be harsh. Nor should must take the law as the legislature makes it so long as the constitution allows it. It makes no exceptions thereto for particular situations."

The defendant, who is 17, attends a business college and refused to attend this school the same number of hours that the law required attendance at the continuation school. Her attorney held that the law requiring her client to attend the continuation school was unconstitutional because minors under 17, who are not employed in manufacturing, are not required to attend any school.

R. R. EARNINGS INCREASE.

Washington, June 30.—Nearly complete returns from all railroads for the four months ending with April, made public by the interstate commerce commission, show continuous improvement in net earnings in every section, notwithstanding the greater, increase in taxes and the heavy drain into operating expenses. Southern roads showed net revenue for April, 1917, of $17,000,000 less than April, 1916, while western roads, grouped as a whole, made more money than ever before, exceeding by $1 per mile the revenues over the banner period of 1916.

Operating revenues reached new high figures, $1,192,911,664 for the four months, an increase of nearly $100,000,000.

PATRIOTISM A CLOAK.

Dayton, Ohio, June 30.—President Keyes of the Dayton Metal Trades said his striking motormen and conductors are "unpatriotic" because they went on strike instead of refusing to accept the company's terms.

"This declaration did not prove as effective as the employers anticipated, but he came nearer the truth in his second announcement that the 'well organized business men" not to recognize the Street Car Men's union. Apparently this is to introduce the public not to trade with the plaintiffs."

PLASTERERS WIN.

St. Paul, Minn., June 30.—The Plasterers' union has been successful in its contest with employers over the question of wages. Starting in October 17 wages of plasterers will be increased 1 cents an hour and tenders' raises 50 cents a day, for the first time these workers secured arbitration provisions in their agreements.

LOW WAGES A MENACE.

Portland, Ore., June 30.—Low wages in this city menace higher rates at other points, according to statements of the Pacific coast metal trades conference at its annual session. Unionists protested against the local ordinance adopted by referendum vote which prohibits picketing and declares it unlawful "to compel or force any person to alter his mode of carrying on his business."

LABORERS RAISE WAGES.

St. Louis, Mo., June 30.—After a short strike plumbers' laborers have raised wages to $3.50 a day and secured an agreement with the Master Plumbers' association. Time and one-half rate will be paid for Saturday afternoon work.

ADOPT TWO-PLATOON PLAN.

St. Paul, Minn., June 30.—The two-platoon plan for the city's paid fire department has been adopted. Three employes were recently organized and have affiliated with the A. F. of L.

HOUSE APPROVES LEVER FOOD BILL

Washington, June 30.—The house passed the Lever food control bill, Saturday, June 23, by a vote of 365 to 5. The measure is now before the senate.

Unionists and sympathizers are urged to immediately ask their senators to vote for this measure, which empowers the president to check food speculators and manipulators. If action in the senate is delayed until after July 1 the value of the legislation is lost as practically all wheat will have been harvested and controlled by private interests after that date.

PRICE OF BREAD IS HIGHER IN WASHINGTON THAN IN ENGLAND, FRANCE, ITALY OR BELGIUM

Washington, June 30.—The price of bread is much higher in Washington than in Great Britain, France, Belgium or Italy. Statistics compiled at A. F. of L. headquarters, covering approximately the same period, show bread prices to be as follows:

Great Britain—32 ounces, 11 cents. Composition, "war bread."

France (southern provinces)—35 ounces, 8 cents. Composition, 80 per cent wheat; 20 per cent, rye, barley and corn.

City of Lyons (France)—35 ounces, 9 cents.

Belgium—35 ounces, 10 cents.

Italy—35 ounces, 8 cents. Composition, "war bread."

Washington, D. C.—14 ounces, 10 cents. Composition, white wheat.

Authorities for the above figures are:

Great Britain—Board of Trade Labor Gazette. Southern France—Personal observation of J. W. Sullivan, member of Typographical union. City of Lyons—"Le Semeur," Lyons. Belgium—Bulletin du Travail, Brussels. Italy—"Bollettino dell 'Ufficio del Layoro," Washington, D. C.—Retail bakers' agreement.

NATION DON'T DEPEND ON CHILDREN'S LABOR

Chicago, June 30.—"Our national existence does not depend on children's labor," writes Editor Perkins of the Cigar Makers' Official Journal.

"The economic standard of this or any other country cannot be advanced or maintained except through the trade union movement," he says:

"While child labor is cheap and ready to do our bit, we insist that our economic condition, the rest of workers and struggle, shall not be destroyed or injured. After all, it is just as important to keep up and add to its success on the battlefield to maintain the same high standard of efficiency, strength and skill of the workers on the economic field as on the battlefield.

"No country can be successful in war unless it is able to be successful in the economic field at home. England, in the first hysteria of the war, rushed headlong into a planless work system at home. Result: Children were forced into painful occupations and worked from 12 to 16 hours a day and broke down in health, regardless of their health and strength, and it was found that England was unable to maintain economic exhaustion. This was partially remedied; the hours reduced and the child labor laws restored, and it is admitted that the relaxation of the child labor laws attempted was unconstitutional because minors under 17, who are not employed in manufacturing, are not required to attend any school.

MINERS MUST ORGANIZE.

Knoxville, Tenn., June 30.—"Not content with charging consumers unjustifiable prices for coal," says the Knoxville Plain Dealer, "coal operators in the Tennessee-Kentucky coal fields are resorting to Siberian methods to prevent the coal miners in their employ from organizing. There is ample evidence to show that they are not strangers to methods of intimidation and lying to accomplish their ends.

"The operators and their general managers are acting through deputy sheriffs in their employ. Organizers have met with every sort of rebuff and threat, and even the deputy sheriffs have even sought to break up public meetings held by the miners."

It is stated that the condition of miners in this field is becoming so intolerable that they must organize for self-protection and to stop, among other things, the robbery perpetrated on them by false weights of the coal mined."

WAGE LAW ATTACK FAILS.

Phoenix, Ariz., June 30.—The attempt to repeal the women's minimum wage law has failed. The law was passed by the last legislature and provides for a minimum wage of $15 a week for women employed in any store, office, shop, restaurant, dining room, laundry, rooming house or manufacturing establishment, on the ground that a lesser amount is inadequate to supply the necessities of life. Living.

Employing interests backed a movement to repeal the law through the referendum, but the eagle eye of organized labor discovered that many of the signatures were fraudulent. Enough names were thrown out to bring the number below the figure necessary for a referendum.

WHY LABOR IS "SCARCE."

Atlanta, Ga., June 30.—The following advertisement has been published in the "want" columns of a local newspaper:

"Laborers wanted. Able-bodied men; 25 cents an hour started; can also use boys 16 and upward at good wages; report for work Monday morning at Southern Wood Preserving company, opposite Fort McPherson, Georgia."

DEMAND HIGHER WAGES.

Hamilton, Ohio, June 30.—Freight handlers employed by the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroad are on strike in the county jail for $1.40 and $2.50 a day. The former rate for truckmen was $1 and for checkers $2.15.

STOVE MOUNTERS GAIN.

Newark, Ohio, June 30.—Stove Mounters' union No. 61 secured an agreement with the James Graham Manufacturing company. Day rates are advanced to 40 cents an hour and piece prices are raised 10 per cent.

POLISHERS RAISE WAGES.

Hamilton, Ohio, June 30.—Organized metal polishers employed at several large plants in this city, have raised wages 5 cents an hour.

MINERS WILL INSIST ON RIGHT TO UNITE

Indianapolis, June 30.—The United Mine Workers stand ready to give "hearty aid to the government to secure an adequate coal supply in these war times, but this does not mean that they will surrender their right to unite or that they will accept victimization policies.

The above declaration is made by the United Mine Workers' Journal, which gives this sidelight on practices of operators:

"Today, as in the times we speak of, the miners of what until now has been the non-union fields are flocking into our organization, insistently demanding that we accept them in our ranks. And because, when the operators follow their established policy of discharging those who join our union, they find they cannot replace them, there is a demand made that we suspend our natural functions, inasmuch as organization plus the arbitrary, unfair policy of the operators, tends to lessen the possible output of coal.

"We demand that the operators abandon their discrimination. Inasmuch as the fact must be patent, even to their unwilling minds, that the approximate limit of coal which can be represented by the miners' union has been reached, it is high time the entire communities as they have done in the past, it is just up to these operators to realize the virtue of necessity to take the same course of recognizing what has always been the absolute right of their employes to associate and organize with their fellow workers for mutual protection.

"Thus only can we be assured of peace with justice to all in the industry remembering that it is vitally important to the country's ability to carry on the war."

SHORTER HOURS IS SURE.

Topeka, Kan., June 29.—"The nine-hour day for women is proving to be a pretty hard pill for many Kansas employers to swallow," writes W. J. Luce in the labor department of the Topeka Daily Capital.

"Long hours have prevailed for so many years in Kansas mercantile establishments, especially in the smaller cities, that the average woman and many employers an attack on a sacred custom. But customs change—slowly in deed, but surely. Kansas employers may as well face the inevitable as gracefully as they can. The nine-hour day for women will eventually, in its turn, give way to the eight-hour schedule, and business must adjust itself to these changes."

MACHINISTS MAKE GAINS.

St. Louis, Mo., June 30.—Machinists employed at the Vulcan iron works have secured an average increase of 6 cents an hour and the eight-hour day.

Granite City, Ill., June 30.—Machinists employed by the Commonwealth Steel company have raised wages 3 cents an hour and reduced their working schedule from nine to eight. The work-day of other metal craftsmen is also reduced.

SLAVE BILL KILLED.

Annapolis, Md., June 30.—A compulsory work bill has been unfavorably reported to the general assembly. The measure was intended to make it a crime for a person to be found not busily engaged in some sort of legitimate work.

War "efficiency" stuff.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Detroit, Mich., June 30.—Electrical workers' union local No. 17 has raised wages to 60 cents an hour, which increase wages from 50 cents to $1.25 a day.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Toronto, Ontario, June 30.—Typographical union No. 91 has raised wages of its job office members $1 a week, making the minimum $18. Conferences between the two parties made this gain possible.

MACHINISTS WANT MORE.

Bridgeport, Conn., June 21. — Organized machinists have asked contract shops in this city to raise wages 15 per cent on account of continuous increase in living expenses.

MOLDERS RAISE WAGES.

Jackson, Mich., June 26.—Every iron foundry in this city but one has signed the $4.50-a-day agreement of the Iron Molders' union.

RAISE WAGES $5 A MONTH.

Linden, Ind., June 30.—Workers employed at the Linden cold storage plant have been granted $5 a month after a three-days' strike.

LABOR NOT SCARCE; NEGROES EXPLOITED

Toledo, Ohio, June 30.—In a report on the importation of negro labor to this city, the General Labor Board's legislative committee has brought out these facts:

That there is no scarcity of labor where employers work their employes decent hours and pay fair wages.

That thousands of negroes have been imported during the past three months and are not paid a living wage.

That while one large contractor was advertising for Toledo labor to go to France to help in the rebuilding of railroads he was importing hundreds of negroes into this city to work on his own jobs.

That crime has increased as a result of these importations and law-abiding Toledo negro citizens suffer thereby.

The committee is most emphatic that racial considerations do not enter into this question and it stands squarely on the trade union declaration against discrimination because of creed, color or nationality.

"It becomes our duty at this time," it is stated, "to call the attention of the public to this condition and to do all in our power to have these men returned to the south where they can raise their wages and better their conditions in accordance with the standards of living to which they believe in. If some effort is not made to stop this importation we will have to do as ready here organized, Toledo labor will be forced to compete with southern standards of living which, at the best, are deplorable as well as detrimental to the city as a whole."

The committee advises organized labor throughout the country to stay away from Toledo.

EVERYBODY IS ENJOINED.

Omaha, June 30.—The attempt of the Bonded Storehouse Co. to destroy Omaha trade unionism has resulted in an unusual injunction by District Court Leslie, which enjoins the Business Men's association and its individual members from combining in any way any person no longer willing to aid the association. It is further enjoined that these business men must not decline to "pay fair and reasonable wages."

The injunctions are ordered to refrain from picketing, "or otherwise seeking to interfere with any person, whether he belongs to a union or not."

The court also orders that "the question of union or non-union shops, whether advocated or contended for by either party to this controversy or herein, shall be held in abeyance until the end of the present war, in which the United States government is now engaged."

The injunction was issued on the request of State's Attorney General Reed, who pleaded "military necessity."

PROFIT PUT DOWN AS LOSS.

Ottawa, Ontario, June 30.—The newsprint paper investigation here has resulted in the publication of interesting figures for the chief item of paper manufacture instead of actual cost of production, manufacturers' profits appear as losses. Items used were the cost of ground wood and sulphite, the cost of transportation to the mill, the cost of power, regardless of their health and strength, and it was found that Emphatically no! Even the wages of the president of the concern's president, who told him the price had been agreed upon. It was also learned that the fixing of the duration was made by another company to compute costs for the first time in answering questions.

This change, testimony showed, made a difference in one company's 1916 business of $7.37 appear as a loss of $10.46 a ton. It was stated that the company had made no deduction for depreciation as well as $1.50 a ton for selling commission, $1 a ton for bonus and $1 a ton for production for depreciation as well as $1.50 a ton for selling commission, $1 a ton for bonus and $1 a ton for production for depreciation.

SHOE WORKERS CONVENE.

Philadelphia, June 30.—The recent convention of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union was held in this city. Every officer was re-elected without a contest and the gathering was so harmonious that many an old timer rubbed his eyes in wonderment as he recalled former days when it was the battle ground for factional warfare. Instead of this convention.

Officers' reports showed steady progress in three years. Chicago was selected as the next meeting place.

MORE "EFFICIENCY."

New York, June 30.—More than 100,000 barrels of new southern potatoes are standing in railroad yards in this city and vicinity. Until they are delivered there is an embargo against further shipments, the stalled potatoes are in 60 cars, which, if all on one track, would extend more than three miles. It is said that $1,000 worth of potatoes are wasted every day because of poor barrels. This is another "efficiency" achievement of railroad managers.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Indianapolis, June 30.—General Secretary-Treasurer Hutcheson of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, reports the following recent gains by affiliates: San Jose, Cal., 5 cents an hour; Fresno, Cal., 5 cents an hour; Bakersfield, Cal., 5 cents a day for outside men and 50 cents a day for mill men. Waterloo, Ia., 5 cents an hour. Millinocket, Me., 5 cents an hour. Bartlesville, Okla., an increase from $4.50 to $5.50 a day.

REVOKE AGENT'S LICENSE.

Los Angeles, June 30.—State Labor Commissioner Woodman has revoked the license of an employment agency in this city which was found guilty of sending workers to places where no demand for labor existed.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

Tacoma, Wash., June 28.—The Teamsters and Chauffeurs' union has secured a wage agreement with employers. Wages are increased $2 and 50 cents a day and the working day is reduced to 10 hours.

MILLIONS OF PROFITS.

New York, June 28.—At a hearing before the public service commission it was shown that the New York Edison company has piled up a surplus of $10,196,376 in 16 years.

PLATE PRINTERS TO MEET.

Boston, June 30.—The twenty-fifth annual convention of the International Steel and Copper Plate Printers' union will be held in this city next week.

IDENTIFIES ACCUSED BUT NEVER SAW THEM

San Francisco, June 30.—In the language of printers, Sadie Edeau was "pied up" when she took the stand against Mrs. Rena Mooney, charged with complicity in last year's bomb outrage. The Edeau woman's testimony played an important part in the conviction of Warren K. Billings and Thomas J. Mooney, both of whom were identified by the witness.

The state was given a hard blow, however, when Mrs. Mooney's attorney forced Sadie to acknowledge that when she made the statement to District Attorney Fickert that she identified the accused she had not seen any of these persons nor had they been pointed out to her.

This admission caused such an uproar that court was adjourned for 10 minutes.

The witness acknowledged that while she was making her statement to District Attorney Mr. Swanson was there." Swanson is a private detective employed by the gas company and who is charged by the defense with being one of the chief instigators of a "frame up" plot.

"At the time you made this statement you had not seen these defendants at all?" asked Attorney McKenzie for the defense.

"No."

"How could you identify them, then?"

"There was something else put on to my statement after lunch," replied the witness.

LESS DEMAND FOR LABOR.

Boston, June 30.—According to the report of the state bureau of statistics for the quarter ending March 31, just issued, there was a marked decrease in the demand for labor in this state as compared with the preceding quarter. Various causes are assigned for this condition. Returns received from 1042 labor organizations in the commonwealth show that 1,000,000 employed on account of labor disputes, as compared with 2.7 at the close of December, 1916, and with 3.9 at the close of March, 1916. The increase in wage earners, or 6.4 percent, unemployed on account of strikes or lockouts.

The number of persons applied for by employers at the Boston offices was 23,000, a decrease of 22 percent as compared with the first quarter of 1916. Applications for positions were 29,000, or 27.5 percent in excess of the number in the first quarter of 1916. At the employment offices in Boston an increase of 8.3 percent over the first quarter of 1916, while in the state the increase was 23%, or 24.2 percent less than in the same period in 1916.

CALLS LABOR LAW A FARCE.

Charleston, W. Va., June 30.—"The compulsory workmen's compensation law of this state is a misnomer and farce," declares Editor Snyder, of the Kanawha Labor Journal, who says the act exempts employers from responsibility and makes no provision for the safety appliances and conditions necessary for the well being of the workers.

"Instead of being an instrument of protection," says the editor, "it serves as a license to that element of the employing class who takes advantage of the inadequate provisions to violate the established rules of industry of safeguarding the conditions of employment of their employes, as under this law the employes have no recourse at law for damages, except as set forth upon the rules conferred by the compensation commission.

"The law is directed toward the rate of expenses and operating as a preventive measure, has the opposite effect."

A TALE OF SEVEN YEARS.

Los Angeles, Cal., June 30.—On May 19, 1910, organized brewery workers in this city were locked out and an industrial war, that focused the eyes of the country on Los Angeles, followed.

On June 6, 1916, Los Angeles brewery proprietors signed an agreement with their organized brewery workers and raised wages from $3 to $4 a day, and improved the working conditions. The agreement is the best these workers ever had, it is stated.

The above illustrates the power of trade unionism and the militancy of the Building Trades council of Los Angeles organized labor in general, which refused to be crushed by the employments and Manufacturers' association.

SHIPPERS FIGHT ROADS.

San Francisco, June 30.—California shippers, who stood so loyally last year behind the railroads in their fight against the demands of labor, have turned on their former pals and are organized to resist freight rate increases, it is announced here, that added operating expenses are more than taken care of by the increased rates which are being done by the different railroads.

The railroad brotherhoods made this claim, the shippers poohpoohed. But the railroads were not satisfied with the increases granted at that time, when it was considered "real smart" to oppose the workers.

WHY BLAME NEGROES?

East St. Louis, Ill., June 30.—At an investigation into the recent race riots here, Mayor Mollman declared that in the last six months from 2,000 to 4,000 negroes have settled in East St. Louis, and that many of these have taken the places of white factory workers. This he said, he considered the cause of the race riots.

Trade unionists insist that the cause is low-wage employers who have lured the negroes into this section.

LOW WAGES FORCE STRIKE.

Kent, Wash., June 30.—It is stated that the Seattle Milk Products company is employing 400 strike breakers to replace the 300 men who are on strike because of low wages. The company paid as low as 14 cents an hour.

BOOKBINDERS ADVANCE.

Toronto, Ontario, June 30.—Bookbinders' union No. 28 has raised wages $4.50 a week, after a long series of conferences with employers.

RAISE WAGES $3 A WEEK.

Hamilton, Ohio, June 30.—As a result of a strike, the Hamilton Bridge Engineers' union has raised its wage rate $3 a week.

LABOR SHOULD BE ON EXEMPTION BOARDS

Washington, June 30.—Local labor movements should urge their claims for representation on district exemption boards, says President Gompers, in a statement issued this week, in which he states the workings of the government's exemption system. He says:

"Numerous communications have been received at this office relative to labor representation upon exemption boards. Many of these communications indicate that the general plan for exemption boards is not understood and that an explanation would be helpful to assisting local organizations to present and maintain their rights and interests.

"There are two classes of exemption boards—the local, or what might be called the zone board, and the district board, which corresponds geographically to the federal judicial districts. The suggestion of names of persons to serve on the local boards is delegated to local government authorities. Local boards will have jurisdiction over matters of fact. The district boards will have jurisdiction over claims for exemption from military service.

"The function of the American Federation of Labor was asked to submit the names of labor representatives to serve on these district boards. Each board is to consist of five members, one of whom is to be a labor man. Officials of the organized labor movements of the various states have been asked to submit the names of men to serve on the district boards corresponding to the federal judicial districts in their states. The names suggested by the state and district labor officials have been submitted to Provost Marshall General Crowder.

"From the foregoing it will be plain that the local labor movements must present and urge their claim to labor representation on the district boards to the local officers responsible for such nominations. It is of importance that the labor representatives should be on all such boards in order that labor's interests may be properly safeguarded both on the board that passes upon questions of fact as well as on the board having appellate jurisdiction.

"If local organizations have not already done so they must at once and maintain their rights, they are urged to do so immediately as the time is limited."

WOULD FORCE MEN TO WORK.

Philadelphia, June 30.—A local newspaper quotes "industrial leaders and lawyers" as declaring that the Virginia law, passed by the last legislature of that state, which requires all able-bodied male citizens between the ages of 16 and 60 years must "habitually and remunerative work" is lawful, useful and recognized business, profession, occupation or engagement through which a person may earn sufficient to support himself and those legally dependent upon him."

One employer, however, quoted as saying that "it is a good thing to make everybody work."

Among the features of this legislation that are most beneficial—to employers—is the provision for its effect in strike times. It can outlaw work suspensions and make the state a procurer of strikebreakers.

HUGE PROFITS IN COAL.

New York, June 30.—An illustration of what a middleman can do to the price of coal is given in testimony material before Judge Grubb of the federal district court, where 31 soft coal companies are charged with violating the Sherman anti-trust law.

Boden Covel, president of the Smokeless Fuel company, Boston, admitted that coal, for which he paid only $2.10 and $2.25 a ton, was sold to the English government at any price up to $8 a ton. Freight charges from the mines averaged $2.50 a ton, and the middleman received more than the operator and the carrier combined.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Baltimore, June 30.—Beginning July 1 the five-year agreement secured by Baltimore Typographical union No. 33 will be in effect. The old scale was $4.75 day or night, eight hours day, seven hours night and six hours night and straight time. From July 1, 1917, to June 30, 1920, new scale becomes: Day or night journeymen, $4.50 2-3 day or night; July 1, 1918, to June 30, 1920, new scale becomes: Journeymen, $4.25 day or night; new hours, eight hours day, seven hours night and eight hours Saturday night.

STEEL STRIKE ENDS.

Girard, Ohio, June 30.—The A. M. Byers company has announced that an agreement has been reached with employes joining a labor organization." This is embodied in an agreement with the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, which has been organized. The Byers concern attempted to destroy the union by discharging men who joined it, but gave up as a result, and now the company agrees to new policies.

BURNS "PLAYED DOUBLE."

New York, June 30.—Burns, "the great detective," was dragged from his obscurity last week by the action of the A. F. of L. in the application to revoke the Burns' agency's license.

Burns is alleged to have played with both sides, admitting that while they were attempting to hold a rich young libertine in an insane asylum, Burns had his agents in the Burns agency. Later it was found that Burns was receiving money from the other side.

HAS GUARDS CHILDREN.

Chicago, June 30.—The new child labor law, passed by the state legislature, is now in effect. No factories or corporation, or their agents, shall employ children under 16 years of age in or about any factory, mill, workshop, laundry, theatre or other place of business. The law is more drastic in towns of more than 15,000 population.

BOSTON BARBERS WIN.

Boston, June 30.—All union barber shops in this city have conceded the increased wage demands of the barber employes. Frank Rossberg of the Journeymen Barbers' International union, has been in this city assisting in arranging a conference with employers with a view to closer co-operation.

UNIONS AMALGAMATE.

San Francisco, June 30.—The Bookbinders' union and the local of bindery women have amalgamated.